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In the claims:

Please amend claims 144 and 150 as follows:

71 144. (Amended) A DNA molecule according to Claim 139 that is patterned on a parent DNA molecule that contains: (1) a nucleotide sequence encoding for human cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator polypeptide, or for a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence sufficiently duplicative of that of human cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator to allow possession of the biological property of epithelial cell anion channel regulation; and (2) a nucleotide sequence within said encoding sequence that defines a cryptic bacterial promoter, itself capable of facilitating synthesis of partial cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator polypeptides that are toxic when expressed in bacterial cells, wherein the encoding-nucleotide sequence of said DNA molecule is modified relative to said parent molecule, thereby limiting the amount of said toxic partial cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator polypeptide that is produced under the direction of said promoter when said molecule is placed in a bacterial cell.

72 150. (Amended) [A] ~~An~~ RNA molecule that is complementary to a DNA molecule according to Claim 139.

Please add new claims as 157-159 follows:

73 157. A DNA molecule that includes an encoding-sequence itself having a sequence modification, said molecule encoding for a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence sufficiently duplicative of that of human CFTR to allow possession of the

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biological property of epithelial cell anion channel regulation, wherein the presence of said sequence modification within the encoding sequence of said DNA molecule facilitates propagation of said molecule in a host bacterial cell.

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word.

158. A DNA molecule consisting essentially of: (1) a DNA sequence encoding for a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence sufficiently duplicative of that of CFTR to allow possession of the biological property of epithelial cell anion channel regulation and; (2) one or more regulatory elements operatively linked thereto, wherein said DNA molecule can be propagated stably in a culture of host bacterial cells, and wherein said molecule can be recovered therefrom in purified form.

159. A composition comprising DNA molecules that include an encoding-sequence itself having a sequence modification, said molecules encoding for a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence sufficiently duplicative of that of human CFTR to allow possession of the biological property of epithelial cell anion channel regulation, wherein the presence of said sequence modification within the encoding sequence of said DNA molecules facilitates propagation of said molecules in a culture of host bacterial cells.

REMARKS

Claims 144 and 150 have been amended. Claims 157-159 have been added. The remarks and response set forth in the amendment filed on October 3, 1994 are reiterated here.